



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Minotti, et al.

Examiner: Khare, D.

Application No.: 09/954,953

Group Art Unit: 1623

Filed: September 18, 2001

Docket: 1188-37 RCE (LD 0226)

Confirmation No.: 8528

For:

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Dated: November 12, 2003

I hereby certify this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: November 12, 2003

Signature K.J. Goodhand/

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Sir:

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Commissioner for Patents

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In response to the Final Office Action mailed September 15, 2003, a reply to which is due December 15, 2003, please consider the following amendments and remarks in order to place the application in condition for allowance or better form for appeal. As this response is being filed within two months of the mailing of the Office Action, a reply by the Examiner prior to the three-month shortened statutory response period is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.